

PUBLIC SAFETY

Safety from violent or property crimes creates the cornerstone of an attractive community. No one wants to live in fear of crime, fire or natural hazards, and communities in which residents feel protected or unthreatened are communities that are more likely to show growth in population, commerce and property value.

Residents were asked to rate their feelings of safety from violent crimes, property crimes, fire and environmental dangers and to evaluate the local agencies whose main charge is to provide protection from these dangers. Most gave positive ratings of safety in the Town of Erie. About 94% of those completing the questionnaire said they felt “very” or “somewhat” safe from violent crimes and 48% felt “very” or “somewhat” safe from environmental hazards. Daytime sense of safety was better than nighttime safety and neighborhoods felt safer than Historic Downtown Erie.

FIGURE 34: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL PUBLIC SAFETY

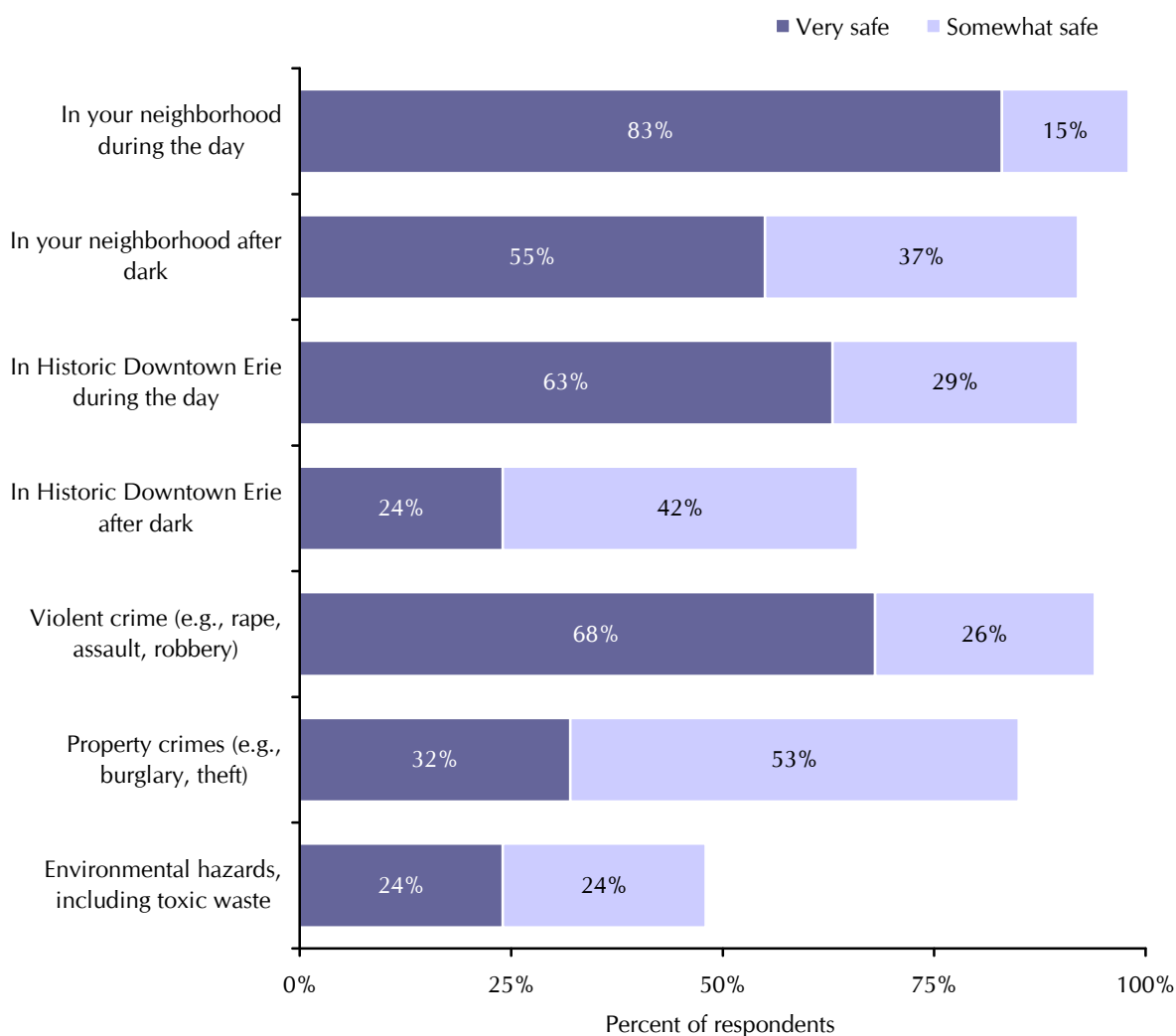


FIGURE 35: COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL PUBLIC SAFETY BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
In your neighborhood during the day	Much above
In your neighborhood after dark	Much above
In Historic Downtown Erie during the day	Above
In Historic Downtown Erie area after dark	Above
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	Much above
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	Much above
Environmental hazards, including toxic waste	Much below

As assessed by the survey, 4% of respondents reported that someone in the household had been the victim of one or more crimes in the past year. Of those who had been the victim of a crime, 91% had reported it to police. Compared to other jurisdictions far fewer Erie residents had been victims of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey and many more Erie residents had reported their most recent crime victimization to the police.

FIGURE 36: CRIME VICTIMIZATION AND REPORTING

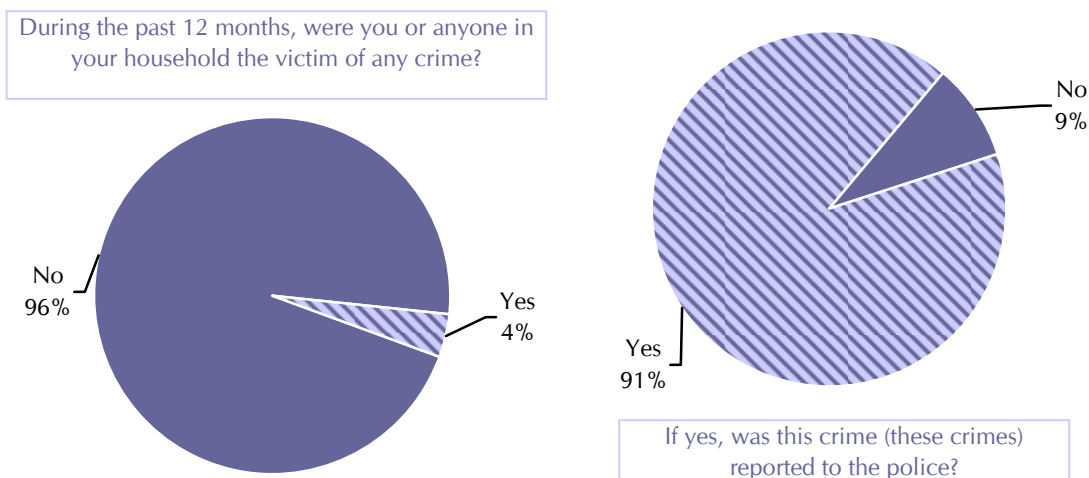


FIGURE 37: CRIME VICTIMIZATION AND REPORTING BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Victim of crime	Much less
Reported crimes	Much more

Residents rated eight Town public safety services; of these, one was rated above the benchmark comparison, six were rated similar to the benchmark comparison and one was rated below the benchmark comparison. Fire services and ambulance or emergency medical services received the highest ratings, while emergency preparedness and municipal courts received the lowest ratings.

FIGURE 38: RATINGS OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

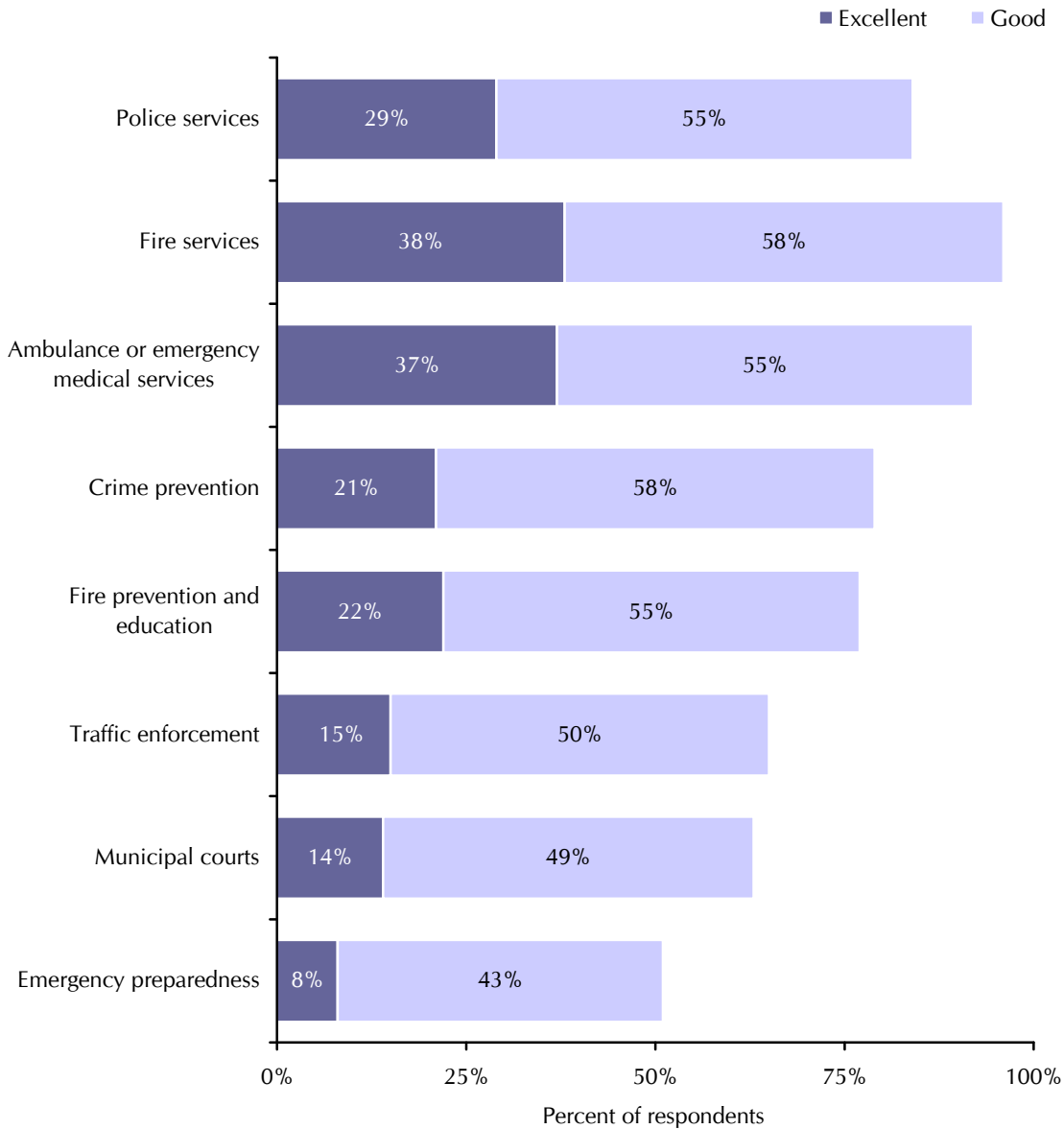


FIGURE 39: PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Police services	Similar
Fire services	Similar
Ambulance or emergency medical services	Similar
Crime prevention	Much above
Fire prevention and education	Similar
Traffic enforcement	Similar
Courts	Similar
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	Much below

FIGURE 40: CONTACT WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

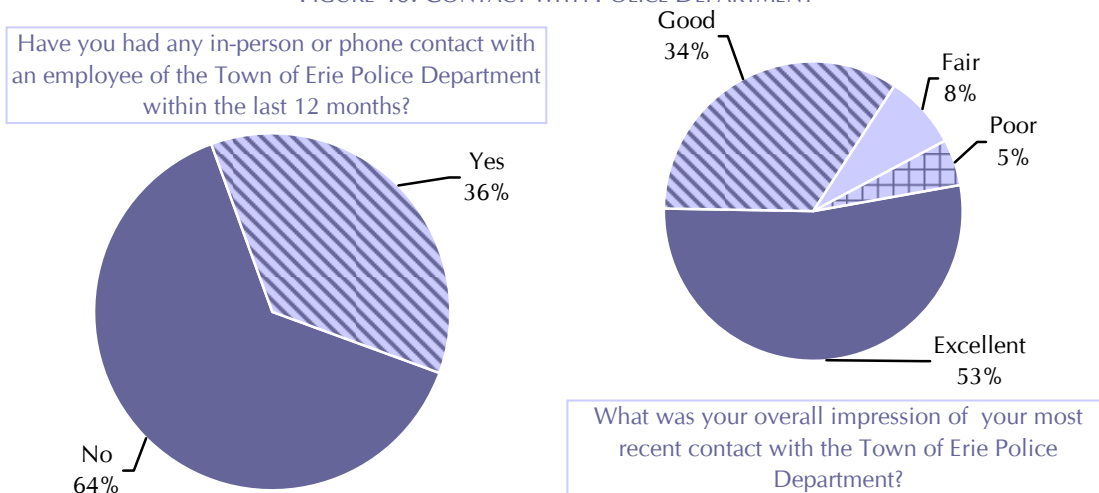


FIGURE 41: CONTACT WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Had contact with the Town of Erie Police Department	Similar
Overall impression of most recent contact with the Town of Erie Police Department	Much above